

Amendments of the Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the above-identified patent application:

Listing of Claims

1. (currently amended) A telecommunication system for transmitting medical compliance reminders, the telecommunication system comprising:

- 5 a prepaid telecommunication access card;
- a patient reminder profile that is activated by the prepaid telecommunication access card; and[[,]]
- a medical compliance reminder system that transmits ~~a plurality of~~ at least one medical compliance ~~reminders~~ reminder to the patient in accordance with the
- 10 patient reminder profile; whereby a patient obtains the prepaid telecommunication card and receives ~~a plurality of~~ at least one medical compliance ~~reminders~~ reminder that ~~are~~ is transmitted by the medical compliance reminder system using the patient reminder profile.

2. (currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the patient reminder profile further comprises:

- the patient's name; and[[,]]
- the patient's contact information.

3. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein the patient reminder profile further comprises a number of medical compliance reminders to make.

4. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein the patient reminder profile further comprises a sequence of dates and times corresponding to each medical compliance reminder.

5. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein one reminder transmission combines reminders for multiple

medicines if the multiple medicines can be taken simultaneously.

6. (original) The system of claim 1, further comprising an interface for configuration of the patient reminder profile.

7. (currently amended) The system of claim 6, where wherein the interface for configuration of the patient reminder profile is an interactive World Wide Web form.

8. (currently amended) The system of claim 6, where wherein the interface for configuration of the patient reminder profile is an interactive touch tone telephone system interface.

9. (currently amended) The system of claim 6, where wherein the interface for configuration of the patient reminder profile is an interactive voice response system.

10. (original) The system of claim 1, further comprising confirmation of patient reminder profile configuration information.

11. (currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the patient reminder profile comprises at least one of:

- a language selection;
- 5 a list of at least one patient contact points;
- a list of at least one patient contact
- telephone numbers;
- a sequence of patient contacts to try until a
- response is received indicating the presence of the patient;
- 10 a sequence of patient contacts to try until an
- answering machine is obtained;
- a selection indicating whether an answering
- machine message should be left;
- at least one alternate patient contact
- 15 sequence for time periods;

at least one different reminder preference for
different time periods;
at least one custom message left by the
patient;
20 at least one custom message left by a third
party, ~~such as a loved one~~;
at least one custom message selected from a
list of prerecorded voices;
an option indicating whether usage
25 instructions should be included with the reminders;
a set of instructions to be included as to the
use of the medicine;
a set of instructions to be included as to how
the patient should handle missed doses;
30 a selection indicating whether the system
should ask for the patient before reminding the patient
whether they have taken the medicine;
a selection indicating whether to wait for the
patient to take the medicine before hanging up;
35 a selection indicating whether to remind the
patient to order a refill when the medicine is running low;
a selection indicating whether the patient
should be asked about specific side effects, and if so, how
often;
40 a selection indicating whether to contact an
administrator in situations when a patient cannot be reached;
a selection indicating whether to contact an
administrator in situations when a patient has discontinued
the medication;
45 a selection indicating whether to contact an
administrator in situations when a patient needs a
prescription refill; and[[,]]
a selection indicating whether to contact an
administrator in situations when a patient needs to add more
50 money to the prepaid telecommunication access card.

12. (currently amended) The system of claim 1,
wherein the administrator profile comprises at least one of:

at least one administrator phone number;
at least one administrator beeper contact
5 number;
at least one administrator personal digital
assistant (PDA) contact address;
at least one administrator instant message
account;
10 at least one administrator email address;
and[[,]]
at least one administrator fax number.

13. (original) The system of claim 1, further
comprising a report summarizing patient reminders and
responses.

14. (currently amended) A method for using a
prepaid telecommunication access card to transmit at least
one medical compliance ~~reminders~~ reminder, the method
comprising ~~the steps of~~:
5 obtaining a prepaid telecommunication access
card;
activating a medical compliance reminder
system with the prepaid telecommunication access card;
storing patient profile information accessible
10 to the medical compliance reminder system; and[[,]]
~~transmitting a plurality of at least one~~
medical compliance reminder ~~messages~~ message using the
patient profile information; whereby:
a patient obtains the prepaid
15 telecommunication access card, activates the medical
compliance reminder system with the prepaid telecommunication
access card, stores patient profile information accessible to
the medical compliance reminder system, and initiates the
medical compliance reminder system to transmit ~~a plurality of~~
20 at least one reminder messages message to the patient using
the patient profile information.

15. (currently amended) The method of claim 14,
further comprising ~~the steps of~~:

asking whether the patient took the medicine;
and[[,]]

5 obtaining a patient acknowledgement response
to the medical reminder message.

16. (currently amended) The method of claim 14,
further comprising ~~the steps of~~:

obtaining the patient's name;
obtaining patient contact information;

5 and[[,]]

storing the patient's name and contact
information.

17. (currently amended) The method of claim 14,
further comprising ~~the step of~~ configuring patient profile
information to include a number of medical compliance
reminders to transmit.

18. (currently amended) The method of claim 14,
further comprising ~~the step of~~ configuring the patient
profile information to include a sequence of dates and times
for each medical compliance reminder.

19. (currently amended) The method of claim 14,
further comprising the step of combining multiple message
transmissions for multiple medicines so that one reminder
message is transmitted [[if]] when two or more medicines can
5 be taken simultaneously.

20. (currently amended) The method of claim 14,
further comprising at least one of ~~the steps of~~:

obtaining a language selection;

obtaining a sequence of patient contacts to
5 try until a response is received indicating the presence of
the patient;

obtaining a sequence of patient contacts to
try until a response is received indicating an answering
machine;

10 obtaining a list of at least one patient
 contact point;
 obtaining at least one alternate patient
 contact sequence for different days of the week, times of
 day, special days, and combinations thereof;
15 obtaining at least one different patient
 profile preference for different days of the week, times of
 day[[;]], special days, and combinations thereof[[.]];
 obtaining at least one custom message from the
 patient;
20 obtaining at least one custom message from a
 third party, ~~such as a loved one~~;
 selecting at least one custom message from a
 list of prerecorded voices;
 obtaining selection information indicating
25 whether usage instructions should be transmitted with some or
 all of the reminders;
 obtaining selection information indicating
 instructions to be transmitted as to the use of the medicine;
 obtaining selection information indicating
30 instructions to be read as to how the patient should handle
 missed doses;
 obtaining selection information indicating
 whether an answering machine message should be left;
 obtaining a selection indicating whether the
35 system should ask for the patient before asking whether ~~they~~
 have the patient has taken the medicine;
 obtaining a selection indicating whether to
 wait for the patient to take the medicine before hanging up;
 obtaining a selection indicating whether to
40 remind the customer to order a refill when the medicine is
 running out;
 obtaining a selection indicating whether the
 patient should be asked about specific side effects; ~~and,~~
 obtaining a selection indicating whether to
45 contact an administrator in situations when a patient cannot
 be reached;

obtaining a selection indicating whether to
contact an administrator in situations when a patient has
discontinued the medication;

50 obtaining a selection indicating whether to
contact an administrator in situations when a patient needs a
prescription refill; and[[,]]

 obtaining a selection indicating whether to
contact an administrator in situations when a patient needs
55 to add more money to the prepaid reminder account.

21. (original) The method of claim 14, further
comprising generating and transmitting confirmation of
patient reminder profile configuration information.

22. (currently amended) The method of claim 14,
further comprising at least one of ~~the steps of~~:

 obtaining at least one administrator phone
number;

5 obtaining at least one administrator beeper
contact number;

 obtaining at least one administrator PDA
contact address;

 obtaining at least one administrator Instant
10 Message account;

 obtaining at least one administrator email
address; and[[,]]

 obtaining at least one administrator fax
number.

23. (currently amended) The method of claim 14,
further comprising ~~the step of~~ generating a report
summarizing patient reminders and responses.

24. (currently amended) The method of claim 14,
further comprising interaction scenarios comprising at least
one of ~~the steps of~~:

 leaving a message if the patient cannot be
5 reached;

generating a message that asks the patient to press a specified key at the phone;

generating a message that asks the patient to come to the phone and say a specified phrase;

10 generating a message that asks the patient to come to the phone and press a specified key, and if the patient is not there asking the person who answers to press a key;

15 generating a message that asks the patient to come to the phone and say a specified phrase, and if the patient is not there asking the person who answers to say a specified phrase;

20 splicing a recording of the ~~patients~~ patient's name the message at the points where the name should be read; trying the next patient contact number [[if]] when an answering machine picks up and the patient has specified that other contact methods should be tried;

25 trying the next contact method [[if]] when the person who responds indicates that the patient is not there;

waiting a preset interval and then trying again, and giving up after a number of unsuccessful attempts;

 contacting the administrator, doctor, relative, or other third party to notify them that the patient could not be reached; and~~[[,]]~~

30 contacting an administrator, doctor, relative, or other third party [[if]] when the patient is unreachable for a few consecutive reminders~~[[;]]~~.

25. (currently amended) The method of claim 14, further comprising ~~the step of~~ playing a name of the patient's medicine from at least one of: (a) a recording that an administrator had made with text-to-speech of the medicine name, and (b) a pre-recorded message that corresponds with the medicine name, where the pre-recorded message is selected from a plurality of pre-recorded messages for a number of common medicines.

26. (currently amended) The method of claim 14,
further comprising ~~the steps of~~:

prompting to the patient to press a first key
on the telephone when their medicine has been taken;

5 prompting to the patient to press a second key
on the telephone ~~[[if]]~~ to be reminded again after a
predetermined time;

 prompting to the patient to press a third key
on the telephone ~~[[if]]~~ to be reminded again at a different
10 time;

 prompting to the patient to press a fourth key
on the telephone if there are concerns about taking the
medicine; ~~[[or,]]~~

 prompting to the patient to press a fifth key
15 on the telephone if they have discontinued the use of the
medicine;

 transmitting a congratulatory message if the
patient indicates the medicine has been taken; and~~[[,]]~~
 recording the transaction to a database.

27. (currently amended) The method of claim 14,
further comprising a user interaction scenario comprising:

 asking if the patient wants to be reminded
again in an unspecified interval; and~~[[,]]~~

5 asking for input regarding when to try back,
marking a deferred transaction in response thereto to a
database, and repeating the reminder at the specified time.

28. (currently amended) The method of claim 14,
further comprising ~~the steps of~~ asking questions if the
patient has concerns about taking the medicine, the questions
comprising:

5 asking if the patient would like to hear a
list of potential side effects, and if so, transmitting a
list of the potential side effects and possible remedies
therefor;

asking if the patient believes they may have
10 at least one ~~symptoms~~ symptom, and if so, advising the
patient to take at least one of the following actions:
discontinuing use of the medicine
immediately[[;]],
contacting a physician or pharmacist
15 immediately for further instructions[[;]],
contacting a poison control center, hospital,
emergency center, or doctor for further instructions[[;]],
and[[,]]
bridging the call directly to a poison control
20 center, hospital, emergency center, or doctor, with a subset
of the patient profile information.

29. (currently amended) The method of claim 28,
further comprising ~~the step of~~ contacting an administrator,
pharmacy, pharmaceutical company, or doctor to alert them to
a potential side effect.

30. (currently amended) The method of claim 14,
further comprising at least one of ~~the steps of~~:
asking if the patient would like to
discontinue the reminder phone calls;
5 asking if the patient would like another call
after a specified time interval;
contacting the patient after a specified time
interval to ask whether to discontinue the reminder phone
calls;
10 asking whether to continue the reminders;
asking if the patient wants more time to
determine whether to discontinue the calls;
asking for the time interval;
calling back at a specified time to present
15 the discontinuation question again, and asking whether more
time is needed to make that decision;
asking if the patient wants to discontinue use
and registering an affirmative response to the database to
cancel future reminders for this medicine;

20 asking if the patient wants to discontinue use
and registering an affirmative response to the database to
cancel future reminders for this medicine, and contacting the
administrator to report this event;

 transmitting a message if the patient has
25 discontinued use of the medicine conveying the danger of not
completing a prescription course unless on the advice of a
doctor and suggesting that the patient contact a doctor,
registering the transaction to a database, and canceling
future reminders for this medicine;

30 transmitting a message if the patient has
discontinued use of the medicine conveying the danger of not
completing a prescription course unless on the advice of a
doctor and suggesting that the patient contact a doctor,
registering the transaction to a database, and canceling
35 future reminders for this medicine, and contacting the
administrator to report this event;

 asking whether the patient would like to
discuss their decision with a doctor;

 asking whether the patient would like the call
40 to be bridged to a doctor;

 asking whether the patient wants to receive a
callback at a different time to confirm that they have chosen
to discontinue use of the medicine, and if affirmative,
recording the time interval for the callback; and[[,]]

45 recording this transaction to the patient
profile information database and scheduling the deferred
reminder.

31. (currently amended) The method of claim 14,
where the prepaid telecommunication access card is activated
by at least one of ~~the steps of~~:

5 activating the card in the store;
 activating the card on the web;
 activating the card over the phone;
 activating the card through a personal digital
assistant;

activating the card through a handheld
10 computing device;
activating the card by a representative of the
vendor;
activating the card by a manufacturer;
activating the card by a patient;
15 activating the card by a computer or automated
system; and[[,]]
activating the card by a health care
professional or aide.

32. (currently amended) The method of claim 14,
further comprising a user option to add more reminders to the
card, the method comprising at least one of ~~the steps of~~:
charging the new reminders to a payment method
5 already on file;
charging the new reminders to a new payment
method;
transferring money from an account; billing to
the patient; and[[,]]
10 billing to a third party.

33. (currently amended) The method of claim 14,
further comprising at least one of ~~the steps of~~:
transmitting a refill message if a refillable
prescription is about to expire;
5 offering to connect the patient directly to a
pharmacy to refill a prescription if a refillable
prescription is about to expire; and[[,]]
requesting the pharmacy to automatically
refill the prescription if a refillable prescription is about
10 to expire.

34. (currently amended) The method of claim 14,
further comprising ~~the step of~~ offering a health tip, with an
option to learn more by pressing a key on a phone.

35. (currently amended) The method of claim 14,
further comprising ~~the step of~~ transmitting a sponsorship

message, with an option to learn more by pressing a key on a phone.

36. (currently amended) The method of claim 14, further comprising ~~the steps of~~:

checking for harmful drug interactions;

and[[,]]

5 sending a warning to the patient if a potentially harmful drug interaction is detected.

37. (original) The method of claim 14, further comprising an auto-refill option that automatically adds additional reminders to the card when the card runs out of reminders.

38. (currently amended) The method of claim 14, further comprising at least one of ~~the steps of~~:

obtaining at least a partial payment from a sponsor who has prerecorded a message;

5 obtaining at least a partial payment from a sponsor who has a prerecorded message in which the user can press a key or keys to hear more information from the sponsor;

10 obtaining at least a partial payment from medical insurance;

obtaining at least a partial payment from a medical insurance company;

providing a message reminding the person to refill their prescription;

15 providing a message reminding the person to refill their prescription and connecting the patient directly to the pharmacy at which the prepaid reminders were purchased;

20 providing a message reminding the person to refill their prescription and connecting the patient to the sponsoring pharmacy;

providing a message reminding the person to refill their prescription, and connecting the patient to the

sponsoring pharmacy with a promotional fee paid by the
25 pharmacy;

charging per reminder;
charging per minute; and[[,]]
charging per prescription.

39. (currently amended) The method of claim 14,
further comprising commercial alternatives for marketing the
prepaid telecommunications access card comprising at least
one of ~~the steps of~~:

- 5 marketing the prepaid telecommunication card
to a pharmacy;
- marketing the prepaid telecommunication card
to a doctor;
- marketing the prepaid telecommunication card
10 to a doctor who recommends use of the card to a patient;
- marketing the prepaid telecommunication card
to a health care professional;
- marketing the prepaid telecommunication card
to a pharmaceutical distributor; and
- 15 marketing the prepaid telecommunication card
to a pharmaceutical company.

40. (currently amended) The method of claim 14,
further comprising a method of identifying the patient
comprising at least one of ~~the steps of~~:

- 5 requesting a security confirmation to verify
whether the person who picks up the phone is actually the
patient by asking for a secret piece of information; and[[,]]
- requesting a security confirmation to verify
whether the person who picks up the phone is actually the
patient, by analyzing the patient's voice.

41. (currently amended) The system of claim 14,
wherein the ~~step of~~ transmitting of the medical reminder
message includes ~~the step of~~ transmitting a query message
that inquires ~~[[if]]~~ whether the patient is ok.

42. (original) A medical reminder system comprising prepaid personal information number (PIN) that activates a medical compliance reminder system.

43. (currently amended) A prepaid telecommunication access card, comprising:
a laminar card; and[[,]]
a prepaid personal information number (PIN)
5 that activates a medical compliance reminder system.

44. (currently amended) The system of claim 43, wherein the prepaid personal information number (PIN) is hidden under a scratch-off coating.

45. (currently amended) A medicine container ~~comprised of~~ comprising:
a container; and[[,]]
a prepaid personal information number (PIN)
5 that activates a medical compliance reminder system.

46. (original) A patient medical compliance reminder system, comprising:
a prepaid telecommunication access card having an identifier printed thereon;
5 a medical compliance reminder system having an automated telephone function, an accounting function, and a patient profile/reminder function;
wherein:
the automated telephone function is adapted to
10 receive the card identifier via a telephone call placed thereto by the patient;
the accounting function is responsive to the card identifier received by the automated telephone function for activating an authorization of a corresponding level of
15 medical reminder services;
the patient profile/reminder function provides a schedule for the medical reminder services; and

the automated telephone function is responsive to the schedule for providing at least one automated
20 ~~reminders~~ reminder to the patient via telephone while the authorization is activated.

47. (original) The system of claim 46, wherein:
the patient profile reminder function provides the schedule based on information provided by the patient to the automated telephone function via the telephone call.

48. (original) The system of claim 46, wherein:
the patient profile/reminder function provides the schedule based on information provided by an administrator of the medical compliance reminder system.